



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/008,955	12/07/2001	Hans Klingemann	06-129 PCT/US/CIP	5420
30058	7590	12/20/2010	EXAMINER	
COHEN & GRIGSBY, P.C. 625 LIBERTY AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-3152			SCHWADRON, RONALD B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1644	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/20/2010	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

IPPatent@CohenLaw.com
LPainePfister@CohenLaw.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/008,955	Applicant(s) KLINGEMANN, HANS	
	Examiner Ron Schwadron, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 23-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-19,21,23-25,28,29 and 31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20,26,27,30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

1. Claims 20,26,27,30 are under consideration.
2. The substitute specification filed 10/12/10 is entered.
3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. Claims 20,26,27,30 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 30-35,46,48,50,53 of copending Application No. 10/701,359. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because whilst the two sets of claims differ in scope, both sets of claims encompass in vivo treatment of tumors with NK-92 and cytokine. The NK-92 cells are administered by injection

(encompasses intravenous). IL-2 is a cytokine with the property of claim 27. The tumors of claim 23 are art known forms of tumors and are "non-solid". The tumor of claim 32 is solid (only solid tumors could receive intratumor injection).

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Applicant has indicated that a TD will be filed upon the recognition of otherwise allowable subject matter.

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. The rejection of claims 20,22,26,27,30 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph for the reasons elaborated in paragraph 8 of the previous Office Action is withdrawn in view of the amended claims and cancellation of claim 22.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 20,26,27,30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gong et al. in view of Santoli et al. (US Patent 5,272,082). Applicants arguments have been considered and deemed not persuasive.

Gong et al. teach use of NK-92 cells to lyse leukemic tumor cells (see Materials and Methods section and page 654, second column). Gong et al. teach that said cells require IL-2 to function (see page 658, first column). Gong et al. does not in vivo use of NK-92 cells to treat cancer. Santoli et al. teach that lytic human derived cell lines can be used in vivo to treat disease or in preclinical in vivo studies(see column 10). Santoli et al. teach that said cells are injected iv(see column 10, penultimate paragraph) wherein

injection utilizes a syringe and wherein the injected NK-92 cells would be adjacent to leukemic cells in the blood. Santoli et al. disclose that the cells can be administered with the cytokine IL-2 (see column 7, third paragraph). Santoli et al. teach that said cells can be modified to bind solid tumors (see column 7, last paragraph, continued on next column). It would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have created the claimed invention because Gong et al. teach use of NK-92 cells to lyse tumor cells, while Santoli et al. teach in vivo use of cytotoxic cell lines. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do so because Santoli et al. teach that lytic human derived cell lines can be used in vivo to treat disease or in preclinical in vivo studies(see column 10).

Regarding applicants comments and the Klingemann declaration, Santoli et al. teach that lytic human derived cell lines can be used in vivo to treat disease whilst Gong et al. disclose that NK-92 cells are a lytic human derived cell line. In addition, as per the specification, page 2, last paragraph, use of NK cells and LAK cells to treat cancer in vivo was already known in the art. Gong et al. disclose that *the NK-92 cell line displays characteristics of NK cells* (see abstract), *wherein use of NK cells to treat cancer in vivo was already known in the art*. Furthermore, in the post KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc. universe, motivation per se is not even required in a rejection under 35 USC 103. In KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S. m, 2007 WL 1237837, at "13 (2007) it was stated that **"if a technique has been used to improve one device, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that it would improve similar devices in the same way, using the technique is obvious unless its actual application is beyond his or her skill"**.

In the instant rejection, NK-92 cells were known in the art as was use of human derived cell lines to treat disease. In addition, as per the specification, page 2, last paragraph, use of NK cells to treat cancer in vivo was already known in the art whilst Gong et al. disclose that the NK-92 cell line displays characteristics of NK cells.

Regarding applicants comments about the differences between said cells and those taught by Santoli et al., Gong et al. teach methods for growing and maintaining said cells (see page 654, first column). While the two types of cells differ in phenotype, both the cells described by Santoli et al. and NK-92 are lytic human derived cell lines that

Art Unit: 1644

can lyse various tumor cells. Santoli et al. teach that lytic human derived cell lines can be used in vivo to treat disease or in preclinical in vivo studies(see column 10). In addition, the use of NK cells to treat cancer in vivo was already known in the art whilst Gong et al. disclose that the NK-92 cell line displays characteristics of NK cells. Regarding applicants' comments about Gong et al., there is no teaching in Gong et al. that NK-92 cells are unacceptable for in vivo use. Regarding applicants comments about Santoli et al., Santoli et al. disclose that there is a need for therapeutic methods for treating cancers using cytotoxic cell lines because said cell lines avoid the need to produce LAK cells derived from the particular patient (see column 2, second paragraph). In addition, the use of NK cells to treat cancer in vivo was already known in the art whilst Gong et al. disclose that the NK-92 cell line displays characteristics of NK cells. Furthermore, NK-92 cells could be used in patients that contained tumor cells that were not lysed by TALL cells. As per stated above, in KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S. m, 2007 WL 1237837, at "13 (2007) it was stated that **"if a technique has been used to improve one device, and a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that it would improve similar devices in the same way, using the technique is obvious unless its actual application is beyond his or her skill"**.

Regarding applicants comments, the MPEP section 2121 states:

2121 [R-6] Prior Art; General Level of Operability Required to Make a Prima Facie Case

I. >< PRIOR ART IS PRESUMED TO BE OPERABLE/ENABLING

When the reference relied on expressly anticipates or makes obvious all of the elements of the claimed invention, the reference is presumed to be operable. Once such a reference is found, the burden is on applicant to provide facts rebutting the presumption of operability. In re Sasse, 629 F.2d 675, 207 USPQ 107 (CCPA 1980). See also MPEP § 716.07.

The MPEP section 2143.02 states:

2143.02 [R-6] Reasonable Expectation of Success Is Required

>A rationale to support a conclusion that a claim would have been obvious is that all the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded nothing more than

predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art. KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S. 82 USPQ2d 1385, 1395 (2007); Sakraida v. AG Pro, Inc., 425 U.S. 273, 282, 189 USPQ 449, 453 (1976); Anderson 's-Black Rock, Inc. v. Pavement Salvage Co., 396 U.S. 57, 62-63, 163 USPQ 673, 675 (1969); Great Atlantic & P. Tea Co. v. Supermarket Equipment Corp., 340 U.S. 147, 152, 87 USPQ 303, 306 (1950).

I. < OBVIOUSNESS REQUIRES ONLY A REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF SUCCESS

The prior art can be modified or combined to reject claims as prima facie obvious as long as there is a reasonable expectation of success. In re Merck & Co., Inc., 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986) (Claims directed to a method of treating depression with amitriptyline (or nontoxic salts thereof) were rejected as prima facie obvious over prior art disclosures that amitriptyline is a compound known to possess psychotropic properties and that imipramine is a structurally similar psychotropic compound known to possess antidepressive properties, in view of prior art suggesting the aforementioned compounds would be expected to have similar activity because the structural difference between the compounds involves a known bioisosteric replacement and because a research paper comparing the pharmacological properties of these two compounds suggested clinical testing of amitriptyline as an antidepressant. The court sustained the rejection, finding that the teachings of the prior art provide a sufficient basis for a reasonable expectation of success.); Ex parte Blanc, 13 USPQ2d 1383 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989) (Claims were directed to a process of sterilizing a polyolefinic composition with high-energy radiation in the presence of a phenolic polyester antioxidant to inhibit discoloration or degradation of the polyolefin. Appellant argued that it is unpredictable whether a particular antioxidant will solve the problem of discoloration or degradation. However, the Board found that because the prior art taught that appellant's preferred antioxidant is very efficient and provides better results compared with other prior art antioxidants, there would have been a reasonable expectation of success.).

Regarding applicants comments, the evidence of record does not establish that the prior was not enabled. Furthermore as per above, obviousness requires only a reasonable expectation of success. Regarding the Klingemann declaration, Santoli et al. teach that

Art Unit: 1644

there is a need for cytotoxic cell lines which could be used to treat cancer (see column 2, second paragraph). In view of the high level of skill in the art (Ph.D. or MD, with extensive research training) it would have been obvious to a routineer that other cytotoxic cell lines could be potentially used as per Santoli et al. In addition, the use of NK cells to treat cancer in vivo was already known in the art whilst Gong et al. disclose that the NK-92 cell line displays characteristics of NK cells.

Regarding comments in the Klingemann declarations about differences between NK-92 cells and TALL 104 cells, Tam et al. (Human Gene therapy, 1999) (reference 124 on the Klingemann declaration, page 22), page 1369 states that:

“An alternative is to use established cytotoxic NK tumor cell lines, which would give access to large numbers of effector cells. This concept has been proved by Cesano et al. (1997), who showed that ***an NK-like cell, TALL-104*** was effective in treating a variety of malignancies in dogs.”.

Klingemann was an author of said publication. Thus, contrary to the comments in the Klingemann declaration, Tam et al. disclose that TALL-104 is an NK-like cell line which is similar enough to NK cells that findings using TALL-104 cells can be extrapolated to NK cell lines. Furthermore, Klingemann et al. (1996) also disclose that NK-92 and TALL-104 cells have similar lytic properties (see page 73, first column). In addition, regarding comments in the Klingemann declaration, Gong et al. states in page 657, first column that NK-92 cells require IL-2 for continued growth. Regarding applicants comments about long-felt need, similar cells and methods were already known in the art (aka TALL-104 as per Santoli et al.).

The claimed method is an in vivo method of treatment and there is no evidence of record that in vivo treatment with NK-92 cells is superior to in vivo treatment with TALL-104 cells. Furthermore, the Arai publication supplied with the Klingemann declaration states that their trials were phase I wherein “Efficacy was not determined in this phase I trial ...” (page 631, second column, first complete paragraph).

Furthermore as per above, it would have required nothing more than routine experimentation to create the claimed invention. Furthermore the MPEP section 716.04 states:

716.04 [R-2] Long-Felt Need and Failure of Others

>I. < THE CLAIMED INVENTION MUST SATISFY A LONG-FELT NEED
WHICH WAS RECOGNIZED, PERSISTENT, AND NOT SOLVED BY

OTHERS.

11. No claim is allowed.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ron Schwadron, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571)272-0851. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30-6:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla can be reached on 571 272-0735. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ron Schwadron/
Ron Schwadron, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1644